

**RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF WIGTON.**

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the Year

1 9 5 0

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
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Health Department,
Council Offices,
WIGTON.
July, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Wigton.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1950 which is prepared in accordance with Circular 112/50 of the Ministry of Health.

The statistics for the year show that the general health of the community has been well maintained.

The Birth Rate of 17.09 is slightly lower than that for the previous year which was 18.48.

The Death Rate of 11.26 is one of the lowest ever recorded for the District.

The Infantile Mortality Rate of 24.21 is the lowest ever recorded.

It is pleasing to report that there were no deaths from Puerperal or Maternal causes during 1950.

Again there were no cases of Diphtheria recorded.

The one black spot as far as infectious diseases are concerned is the increased number of deaths from pneumonia and influenza. These deaths were reported towards the end of the year when the influenza epidemic which swept the country was beginning.

The Council are doing all within their power as regards Housing, Water Supplies and Sewerage, and it is hoped that further progress will be attained in the near future.

In conclusion may I once more express my indebtedness to my colleagues on the staff for their continued loyal support and to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their encouragement in matters affecting the health and welfare of the district.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

I. SPEDDING JONES,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	138,620
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population	..	..					24,160
Population at Census of 1931	..	..	..	..	..		22,058
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1950) according to Rate Books	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,699
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£115,242
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£443

POPULATION :

The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population 1950 (24,160) includes members of His Majesty's Forces stationed in the area. The exact number of Service population in the area is not given.

The estimated population for mid 1949 was 23,000 civilian and 1090 non-civilian or Service population.

The apparent increase this year is due to the addition of Service personnel which were not included in previous years.

The following table gives the estimated population for the last ten years :

Year :	Registrar-General's estimated population :		
1941	23,480	Civilian Population	
1942	23,100	..	..
1943	22,640	..	..
1944	22,020	..	..
1945	21,660	..	..
1946	22,260	..	..
1947	22,460	..	..
1948	22,920	..	..
1949	24,090	Civilian & Service Population	
1950	24,160	..	..

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT.

LIVE BIRTHS						Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	399	216	183
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	14	7	7
Total live births	..	..	..	..	..	413	223	190

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of estimated resident population—17.09.

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	9	6	3
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Total still births	10	6	4

RATE PER 1,000 (live and still births)—23.64.

DEATHS

All causes	272	130	142
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DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION—11.26.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	nil	nil	nil
Deaths from other Maternal Causes ..	nil	nil	nil

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 (live and still births)—nil.**Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—**

All Infants per 1,000 live births	24.21
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	24.21
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	nil

Ten infants under one year of age died during 1950 as compared with sixteen during the previous year.

The following were the causes of death :—

	0-1 weeks	1 month	2 months	4 months	8 months	Total
Prematurity	2	—	—	—	—	2
Intracranial Birth Injury ..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Aspirator Pneumonia ..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Broncho. Pneumonia ..	—	2	1	—	—	3
Dehydration. Cron. Vomiting Dyspepsia	—	—	—	1	—	1
Acute Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	1	1
T.B. Meningitis	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total	4	2	1	2	1	10

DEATHS FROM ENTERITIS AND DIARRHOEA OF CHILDREN UNDER TWO YEARS :—

There were no deaths recorded from this cause.

TABLE SHOWING THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES AS A WHOLE AND CERTAIN GROUPS IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND FOR THE YEAR 1950.

	Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
England and Wales	15.8	11.6	29.8
Administrative County of Cumberland ..	17.6	12.6	35
Urban District of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and Whitehaven)	18.0	13.4	33
Rural Districts of Cumberland	17.4	12.0	37
RURAL DISTRICT OF WIGTON ..	17.09	11.26	24.21

The following table shows the birth rate, death rate and infantile mortality rate per thousand of the population during the past ten years :

Year	Birth Rate :	Death Rate :	Infantile Mortality Rate :
1941	17.0	12.0	35
1942	19.0	11.08	63
1943	19.7	12.8	44
1944	19.3	12.3	44
1945	19.7	12.5	46
1946	18.2	12.2	24.6
1947	22.3	12.9	40
1948	20.07	11.86	32.61
1949	18.48	12.13	37.65
1950	17.09	11.29	24.21

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths from this cause during 1950.

The following table gives the maternal mortality rate for the last ten years :

Year :	No. of births (live & still) :	Deaths :	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births :
1941	417	2	4.79
1942	456	1	2.19
1943	460	3	6.52
1944	440	nil	nil
1945	437	1	2.28
1946	421	1	2.37
1947	515	nil	nil
1948	477	nil	nil
1949	433	2	4.61
1950	423	nil	nil

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities continue to be made available by the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory at Carlisle.

Water samples are examined as a rule by the County Analyst, Mr. Stock, at Darlington.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The ambulance facilities have been improved, and are under the control of the Cumberland County Council. A new ambulance was provided by the County Council for the Wigton area.

WATER.

I am indebted to Mr. J. R. Watters, the Water Engineer, for furnishing the following report :—

My survey of water supplies in general for the year 1950 reveals that my department had an easier year than is normally the case, due to the very wet summer season which kept the general consumption at a comparatively low level, thus reducing the number of complaints of lack of water which occur with monotonous regularity during each normal summer period.

A short period of fine, warm weather in the month of May caused the demand in the eastern parishes to overtake the output of the Townthwaite springs, but before the small service reservoir became entirely empty the rain came to save the situation for the remainder of the year.

In the same month, supplies were intermittent in Kirkbampton area which is supplied in bulk from Carlisle Corporation mains, and also in Sebergham parish which is supplied in bulk from the Border R.D.C. mains.

In the western half of the district an ample supply of high quality water was continuously available, but in the eastern districts, including the town of Wigton, the contaminated sources remain with us, and they are a cause of constant anxiety.

Of the seven sources of supply, the Analyst's Reports indicate that only two are producing water of the desired quality for domestic consumption.

The remaining five unsatisfactory sources will be eliminated when the proposed new development scheme is implemented, but very little progress has been made during the year, towards any sort of improvement on these sources which are deficient in both quality and quantity.

I would again call your attention to the Report on the examination of water on the Wigton Town Supply which states that the sample "affords positive evidence of pollution by faecal drainage," and that this water is supplied in large quantity to seven schools in the town to which large numbers of children are conveyed daily from distant parts of the Rural District.

Any possible danger which may exist in Wigton water, therefore, is not confined to the town area alone, but to residents in the villages over a wide area to which infection might be carried by children attending Wigton schools.

SCHEDULE OF PARISH WATER SUPPLIES—1950.

Parish	Dwelling Houses Existing	Population (estimated)	Dwelling Houses supplied	Population (estimated)
Aikton	133	479	127	458
Allhallows	206	741	203	731
Allonby	201	723	199	716
Aspatria	938	3,377	937	3,374
Bl'hasset & Torpenhow	169	608	152	547
Boltons	186	669	157	567
Bowness-on-Solway	308	1,119	299	1,076
Bromfield	180	648	167	601
Caldbeck	240	864	155	558
Dundraw	51	183	49	176
Hayton	62	223	61	219
Holme Abbey ..	220	792	215	774
Holme East Waver	91	327	87	313
Holme Low ..	116	417	115	414
Holme St. Cuthbert	151	543	148	533
Ireby	171	616	120	432
Kirkbampton ..	88	317	78	281
Kirkbride	134	482	132	475
Sebergham	111	399	96	345
Silloth	953	3,430	953	3,430
Thursby	238	857	235	846
Waverton	106	381	92	331
Westnewton ..	75	270	74	266
Westward	223	803	178	641
Wigton	1,193	4,295	1,191	4,288
Woodside	171	617	161	580
TOTAL :—	6,715	24,180	6,381	22,972

(sgd.) J. R. WATTERS.

REPORTS ON EXAMINATION OF WATER AS SUPPLIED TO CONSUMERS.

The following reports on bacteriological examination of water have been submitted from the County Analyst :

26th September, 1950.

Sample marked :
No. 1 Aspatria and Silloth Supply
Raw Water

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 37 deg. C. after 72 hours	162 per ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 20/22 deg. C. after 72 hours	346 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli test @ 37 deg. C. after 72 hours	Positive in 5 ml.
Clostridium Welchii test @ 44 deg. C. ..	1 medium and 22 small colonies in 40 ml.

Opinion :—

The sample affords evidence of contamination by undesirable drainage of surface origin as evidenced by the results of the counts on Agar at both temperatures, the fact that the Clostridium Welchii Test affords a positive reaction, and that the probable number of coliform organisms is of the order of 18 per 100 ml. of sample.

This is not unusual for a supply derived from upland surface water, and it is suitable for treatment in order to put it into supply for human consumption.

Signed : CYRIL J. H. STOCK.

26th September, 1950.

Sample marked :
No. 2—Aspatria and Silloth Supply
after filtration and chlorination.

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @	
37 deg. C. after 72 hours	0 per ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @	
20/22 C. after 72 hours	0 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test @ 37 deg. C.	
after 72 hours	Negative in 100 ml.
Clostridium Welchii Test @ 44 deg. C. ..	Negative
Residual Chlorine	None.

Opinion :—

The sample is, to all intents and purposes, sterile, and it is of good and wholesome quality for all domestic purposes.

Signed : CYRIL J. H. STOCK.

26th September, 1950.

Sample marked :
No. 3—Ireby and District—
Untreated.

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @	
37 deg. C. after 72 hours	7 per ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @	
20/22 C. after 72 hours	6 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test @ 37 deg. C.	
after 72 hours	Negative in 100 ml.
Clostridium Welchii @ 44 deg. C. ..	Negative

Opinion :—

For an untreated water this is one of the highest degree of purity which has come within my cognizance, and it is of good and wholesome quality for human consumption.

Signed : CYRIL J. H. STOCK.

26th September, 1950.

Sample marked :
No. 4—Caldbeck Supply—
Untreated.

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @	
37 deg. C. after 72 hours	24 per ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @	
20/22 deg. C. after 72 hours	84 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test @ 37 deg. C.	
after 72 hours	Positive in 1 ml.
Clostridium Welchii test @ 44 deg. C. ..	1 small colony in 40 ml,

Opinion :—

The probable number of coliform organisms in this sample is of the order of 250 per 100 ml. There is no direct evidence of pollution by drainage associated with sewage, but the probable number of coliform organisms indicates a degree of contamination by surface drainage which is usually associated with an untreated water supply, but, with proper treatment, the source of this supply should be quite suitable for use in a service supply.

Signed : CYRIL J. H. STOCK.

26th September, 1950.

**Sample marked :
No. 5—Hesket-new-Market
Supply—Untreated.**

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 37 deg. C. after 72 hours	9 per ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 20/22 deg. C. after 72 hours	120 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test @ 37 deg. C. after 72 hours	Positive in 1 ml.
Clostridium Welchii Test @ 44 deg. C. ..	Negative

Opinion :—

The sample affords no evidence of pollution by drainage associated with sewage, but the probable number of coliform organisms per 100 ml. of sample is of the order of 250.

This indicates some degree of contamination by surface drainage of undesirable character, and, if the defect is remedied no exception could be taken to the use of the supply for human consumption.

Signed : CYRIL J. H. STOCK.

26th September, 1950.

**Sample marked :
No. 6—Townthwaite Supply—
Raw Water.**

Number of colonies of Nutrient Agar @ 37 deg. C. after 72 hours	4 per ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 20/22 deg. C. after 72 hours	17 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test @ 37 deg. C. after 72 hours	Positive in 50 ml.
Clostridium Welchii Test @ 44 deg. C. ..	Negative

Opinion :—

The sample affords no evidence of pollution by drainage of undesirable character, and it is of good and wholesome quality for human consumption after suitable treatment.

Signed : CYRIL J. H. STOCK.

26th September, 1950.

**Sample marked
No. 7—Townthwaite Supply—
After Chlorination.**

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 37 deg. C. after 72 hours	2 per ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 20/22 deg. C. after 72 hours	61 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test @ 37 deg. C. after 72 hours	Positive in 50 ml.
Clostridium Welchii Test @ 44 deg. C. ..	Negative

Opinion :—

The probable number of coliform organisms in this sample is of the order of 2 per 100 ml. and the sample is of good and wholesome quality for all domestic purposes.

Signed : CYRIL J. H. STOCK.

26th September, 1950.

**Sample marked
No. 8—Wigton Town Supply—
Untreated.**

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 37 deg. C. after 72 hours	23 per ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 20/22 deg. C. after 72 hours	100 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test @ 37 deg. C. after 72 hours	Positive in 1 ml.
Clostridium Welchii Test @ 44 deg. C. ..	3 large colonies in 40 ml.

Opinion :—

The sample affords evidence of contamination by drainage of undesirable character to the fact that the Clostridium Welchii Test affords positive evidence of pollution by faecal drainage, and that the probable number of coliform organisms, per 100 ml. of sample is of the order of 250.

With suitable treatment this supply should afford an water of good and wholesome quality for human consumption.

Signed : CYRIL J. H. STOCK.

26th September, 1950.

**Sample marked :
No. 9—Greenfoot Supply—
Raw Water.**

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 37 deg. C. after 72 hours	75 per ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 20/22 deg. C. after 72 hours	82 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test @ 37 deg. C. after 72 hours	Positive in 0.1 ml.
Clostridium Welchii Test @ 44 deg. C. ..	Negative

Opinion :—

The probable number of coliform organisms in this sample is of the order of 250 per 100 ml., which, for a Raw Water disclosing no other defects, is not a figure which can be regarded as exceptional and, with suitable treatment, the source of the supply will be of good and wholesome quality for human consumption.

Signed : CYRIL J. H. STOCK.

26th September, 1950.

**Sample marked :
No. 10—Greenfoot Supply—
After Chlorination.**

Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 37 deg. C. after 72 hours	22 per ml.
Number of colonies on Nutrient Agar @ 20/22 deg. C. after 72 hours	55 per ml.
Presumptive B. Coli Test @ 37 deg. C. after 72 hours	Negative in 100 ml.
Residual Chlorine	None.

Opinion :—

The sample shows that the supply is of good and wholesome quality for all domestic purposes.

Signed : CYRIL J. H. STOCK.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE :

Wigton Trade Sewer : Good progress was made during 1950 on this project and it is hoped it will be ahead of schedule.

Aspatria Sewerage Scheme : The extension and improvements to this scheme were commenced on the 5th December, 1949, and at the time of writing are still in progress. Progress on this scheme has been very disappointing.

Kirkbampton Sewerage Scheme : which was commenced December, 1948, is not yet completed at the time of writing this report.

Littlebampton Sewerage Scheme which was commenced November, 1949, is nearing completion.

The work on these schemes has been satisfactory, but the rate of progress deplorable.

Drumburgh and Glasson Sewerage Scheme : A Ministry of Health enquiry was held in August, and the Clerk has since received approval in principle. It is hoped that these schemes will be started in the near future.

Waverton and Oulton Sewerage Schemes : The Consulting Engineers are preparing schemes for these two villages, and a scheme for Oulton is up at the Ministry at the moment.

SCHOOLS :

Secondary Modern School, Wigton : Half the school was in use throughout 1950, and the entire building was finished in the early part of 1951. This school, which is planned for 500 children, will be in full operation in September, 1951. Wigton has been very fortunate in getting the first of these new schools in the county.

Sanitation in Rural Schools : The following is a list of schools in the area which were without waterborne sanitation at the end of 1950 :—

Hesket-new-Market	Hayton
Caldbeck	Holme St. Cuthberts
Aldoth	Kirkbampton
Biglands	Newton Arlosh
Blencogo	Oulton
Boltons	Waverbridge
Bromfield	Westward
Drumburgh	Wiggonby
Fingland	

It will be noted this is a total of seventeen schools out of forty-three in the Wigton Rural District,

I should like to see the County Education Committee decide to spend some money on bringing these schools up to a decent standard. On the occasion of the opening of the Secondary Modern School in Wigton, Mr. G. B. Brown, the ex-Director of Education for this county, said in the course of his speech that every time he thought of rural schools he thought of privies.

During the year the County Engineer had a survey made of the schools in the Wigton Rural District which had not modern sanitation, and I believe he furnished a report to the Director of Education and I sincerely hope that the recommendations of his report will be implemented.

At the time of writing, modern sanitation is being installed at Wiggonby and Newton Arlosh schools.

NUTRITION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN :

The general condition of school children in the area remains satisfactory.

There is no doubt that the school meals service has made a vast improvement in the general health of the children.

Of the children examined during the year 39.20 % were found to be above average nutrition, 59.34% were found to have normal nutrition, and 1.46% were found to be below normal nutrition.

There were no cases of malnutrition found in the schools.

SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE AND MILK IN SCHOOLS :

All schools in the area with the exception of Sebergham and Newton Arlosh have a milk scheme in operation.

Out of a total school population of 3,424, 2,477 were taking milk in schools and 2,239 were taking school meals at the end of the year.

At the time of writing the report (July, 1951), the only schools in the area where mid-day meals are not served are the following :

Blencogo
Blennerhasset
Caldbeck
Kirkbride
Newton Arlosh
Uldale.

At Blencogo the school canteen which was built in 1949 has not yet been used. This is because the school sanitation (privy midden) is too near the new canteen. Under these circumstances, if the canteen were used, there would be a definite risk of contamination of food by fly borne infection. A scheme for conversion of the present system to the water carriage system of sanitation is under consideration.

SWIMMING BATH :

The swimming bath at Wigton has been extensively used throughout the year by the general public and especially by the school children of Wigton and the surrounding villages who are taught to swim at the baths.

The water is filtered and chlorinated and a high standard of cleanliness has been maintained.

HOUSING :

During the year 1950 housing estates were in course of development at

Allonby	..	..	..	..	18 houses
Aspatria	..	..	..	..	60 „
Ireby	..	..	..	..	4 „
Kirkbride	..	..	..	..	2 „
Thursby	..	..	..	..	38 „
West Silloth	..	..	..	..	10 „
Wigton	..	..	..	..	12 „

During this period four houses at Ireby, twenty-two at Thursby and two at Kirkbride were completed and occupied, thus completing these estates. At Aspatria, West Silloth and Allonby, sixty, ten and twelve houses respectively were completed and occupied.

In addition, building licences were granted to private developers in respect of twelve houses, and sixteen private dwellings were completed during the year.

The best that can be said of the housing situation is that it is no worse than it was at the end of 1949, but it is still serious. The number of applicants for houses at the end of 1949 was 895, and at the end of 1950, 880.

It will be seen from the following table, which shows the number of houses completed and occupied in the area since 1st January, 1939, that the number of houses built in 1950 was more than double the number built in 1949 and is the best year the Council has had.

	1939	1940	1944	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	Tota
Wigton									161
Brindlefield ..	98	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Brackenlands ..	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	
Kirkland Avenue ..	—	—	—	—	42	7	—	—	
Aspatria									131
Noble Croft ..	—	57	—	—	14	—	—	—	
North View ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60	
Agricultural Houses ..	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Newton Arlosh ..	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	6
West Silloth ..	—	—	—	—	—	35	—	10	45
Kirkbride	—	—	—	—	—	2	18	2	22
Thursby	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	22	38
Torpenhow	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6
Uldale	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
Abbeytown	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	10
Allonby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	12
Ireby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Totals ..	98	57	12	14	56	50	54	110	451

The following table gives the allocation of houses granted by the Ministry of Health during the past five years :—

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	Total
Council	112	72	52	90	104	430
Private	—	9	3	10	11	33
Totals	112	81	55	100	115	463

In spite of difficulties at Wigton regarding sewerage and water the Council decided to build a small number of houses on the Western Bank Estate, and twelve of these were actually started at the end of the year.

SUB-STANDARD PROPERTY :

Advantage was taken of the fact that many tenants living in sub-standard property were to be re-housed by the Council, the owners of the property were contacted and in many instances they have agreed to bring their property up to a satisfactory standard. The properties so dealt with by the end of the year were :—

Marsh Cottages, Skinburness	Three cottages converted into one house with bathroom.
Prospect Place, Silloth.	Six back-to-back houses converted into three "through" houses.
Raglands Court, Silloth.	Eighteen back-to-back houses converted into nine "through" houses, complete with hot water systems, baths and new back kitchens. Communal washing facilities and sanitary accommodation were demolished as the conversion scheme provided for all amenities at the houses.
3-17, Arkleby Road, Aspatria	Eight back-to-back houses converted into four "through" houses.
23 & 27, Springkell, Aspatria.	Two back-to-back houses converted into one "through" house with bathroom.
Howrigg Cottage, Westnewton.	Very damp cottage with bad approach. Owner had given undertaking not to relet for human habitation.
22, Brough Street, Aspatria.	Very damp house, extensive rendering of internal walls and general improvements including the installation of electricity, new grates and bath and sink.
Rose Cottage, Curthwaite.	Very damp cottage in poor condition generally. Extensive repairs and reconditioning done under statutory notice.

Following a representation to the Health Committee, a Demolition Order was made during the year in respect of the following very bad dwellinghouse :—

Shawk Bottom, Westward.

Under Section 12 of the Housing Act a Closing Order (part of a building) was made in respect of a cottage in The Square, Allonby.

The following comparative table shows the progress being made in the relief of overcrowding throughout the area :—

	1947	1948	1949	1950
Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	85	84	53	45
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	28	20	13	8
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	33	21	44	16

Of the 110 houses completed by the Council during 1950, 13 were allocated to families living under overcrowded conditions.

EX-R.A.F. SITES, SILLOTH :

No. 1 Site : The forty-one dwellings on this site have provided accommodation for people who have been in desperate need of houses. Although a lot of money was spent on this site the accommodation afforded must still be regarded as of a temporary nature as the dwellings still leave much to be desired.

Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 Sites : Attempts have been made to make these dwellings tolerably fit for habitation by refelting the roofs and providing rain water spouting and guttering to mitigate dampness. These measures are a success in themselves, but no adequate cure for the serious dampness which exists here can be found. The walls are of single brick thickness and they become saturated with dampness in wet weather, and in view of the driving rains which are common in Cumberland the dwellings are quite unfit for habitation. I am sure the Council realise this and are facing up to the serious problem which confronts them, and at the time of writing a number of families have already been re-housed and their living accommodation has been made uninhabitable by the removal of the doors and windows.

MEAT INSPECTION :

Full particulars of the work done at the abattoir will be found in the Table in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Endeavours have been made to get improvements to sanitation and slaughtering arrangements carried out, but we have to agree with the Ministry of Food officials that no major improvements can be carried out on the existing premises which are unsuitable as regards size and siting. An undertaking has been given by the Ministry of Food officials to effect the minor improvements which were asked for, but the real solution to this problem is a new abattoir in a fresh position sited well away from dwellings.

MILK SUPPLY :

On 31st December, 1950, ten premises were registered for the storage and distribution of milk.

We were unable to register the premises of one distributor as they failed to reach the required standard of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and sale from these premises was discontinued.

The sampling of milk for cleanliness standards is now done by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' own inspectors, but this Council's inspectors take samples on behalf of the Cumberland County Council for the detection of tubercle in milk from ungraded farms. During the year 119 samples were submitted to the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory for biological examination, all of which proved negative.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947 :

The following table gives results of samples taken during the year as compared with those of the previous year :—

				1949	1950
Grade 1 (Good)	..	..	..	4	24
Grade 2 (Fair)	..	..	..	6	13
Grade 3 (Poor)	..	..	..	9	8
Grade 4 (Very Poor)	..	..	..	7	7

These results show an improvement, and it is hoped to show further improvements, as all those concerned in the manufacture of ice cream are anxious to achieve good results.

BYELAWS MADE UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, IN CONNECTION WITH THE HANDLING, WRAPPING AND DELIVERY OF FOOD, AND THE SALE OF FOOD IN THE OPEN AIR :

These Byelaws were officially adopted by the Council on the 21st March, 1950, and circulated to the trade. A lot of time was spent on the inspection of premises where food is prepared and sold, and it is gratifying to note that there were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS :

The following table gives particulars of cases notified and of the deaths during 1950 :—

			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 1	..	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1- 5	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	..	..	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
15-25	..	..	1	4	—	1	—	3	—	—
25-35	..	..	1	3	—	—	2	—	—	—
35-45	..	..	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
45-55	..	..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	..	..	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards	..		—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	..		4	12	2	2	4	5	1	—

The following tables gives the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1950 :—

				Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	..	..	..	40	30	70
Non-pulmonary	..	..	..	8	7	15
All forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	48	37	85

Below is a table giving the number of deaths from all forms of tuberculosis in the area during the last ten years :—

				DEATHS			
				Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Total	
Year				M.	F.	M.	F.
1941	..	..	2	4	1	1	8
1942	..	..	2	2	3	1	8
1943	..	..	3	4	1	1	9
1944	..	..	2	5	1	—	8
1945	..	..	2	5	—	—	7
1946	..	..	6	3	—	2	11
1947	..	..	3	3	4	1	11
1948	..	..	3	6	—	2	11
1949	..	..	4	5	1	—	10
1950	..	..	4	5	1	—	10

At the end of 1949 there were eighty-nine cases on the Tuberculosis Register; twenty new cases were added to the register during 1950, nine cases were removed as having recovered, five cases left the district and there were ten deaths from tuberculosis leaving a total of eighty-five cases on the Tuberculosis Register.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary at Aspatria was closed at the end of March, 1950, and the one at Wigton at the end of December, 1950; the patients now attend the new Chest Centre established by the Hospital Board at the City General Hospital, Carlisle.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES : The following table shows the number of cases notified during the year :

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1950.

Disease	Total cases notified						65 and up-wards	Total	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-64				
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Erysipelas ..	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	4	-	-
Malaria ..	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2	-
Measles ..	1	30	38	4	1	1	-	75	-	-
Meningococcal Meningitis ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Influenzal Pneumonia ..	-	2	3	3	4	4	4	20	-	21
Scarlet Fever ..	-	6	14	-	-	-	-	20	1	-
Whooping Cough ..	3	51	29	-	1	-	-	84	-	-

DIPHTHERIA :

As in the previous year there were no cases of Diphtheria in the area during 1950.

IMMUNISATION :

The following table gives the number of children immunised during the year :—

Primary Inoculation.

Children up to five years of age	273
Children between five and fifteen years of age ..	43
Booster —or reinforced doses given to children who have previously been immunised	443

POLIOMYELITIS :

We were fortunate in having no cases of this disease in the area during the year under review, although two suspected cases were admitted to hospital but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

WHOOPING COUGH :

Eighty-four cases of whooping cough were notified during the year as compared with sixty-seven the previous year. There were no deaths from this cause.

MEASLES :

Seventy-five cases of this disease were notified during the year as compared with eighty-four the previous year. There were no deaths from measles.

SCARLET FEVER :

Twenty cases of scarlet fever were notified as compared with thirteen in 1949. All the cases were of a mild type, and there were no deaths.

The use of penicillin in the treatment of this disease has been highly successful, the patient is rendered non-infective, usually within forty-eight hours of the commencement of treatment. The disease is no more infective than the usual streptococcal tonsillitis which is treated in the same way.

It is only necessary to send these cases to hospital if there are complications or where the home conditions are extremely bad.

TYPHOID AND PARA-TYPHOID FEVERS :

There were no cases of these diseases during the year.

MALARIA :

There were two cases of this disease notified during the year, both were Service personnel and the infection was contracted abroad. Both made a complete recovery.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER :

One case of this disease notified during the year concerned a boy of five years of age and he made a complete recovery.

PNEUMONIA :

Twenty cases of this disease were notified during the year and there were no cases of influenza notified. According to the Registrar-General's return there were nine deaths from pneumonia and twelve deaths from influenza. Of these twenty-one fatal cases, only five had been notified previous to death, but seven of these cases died outside our area and may have been notified in the area where they were resident at the time of death.

By reference to the Table headed " Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1950 " it would appear that there were twenty cases of pneumonia notified and twenty-one deaths which of course is impossible.

In 1949 there were seven deaths from pneumonia and three from influenza as compared with nine from pneumonia and twelve from influenza recorded in 1950.

The following table gives details of the ages. It will be noticed that most of the deaths are in the extremes of life, namely the very young and the very old. At these ages there is very little resistance to a disease like pneumonia.

0-1 month ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
1 month-20 years		..	..	..	..	1
20-30 years	..	..	..	..	..	1
30-40 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
40-50 ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
50-60 ..	..	..	..	..	..	—
60-70 ..	..	..	..	..	..	4
70-80 ..	..	..	..	..	..	4
80-90 ..	..	..	..	..	..	4
90-100 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1

CAUSES OF DEATH FOR 1950.

Cause						M.	F.	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	..	..	..	..	3	6	9
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	—	2	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
14.	Other malignant and limphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	5	5	10
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	19	21	40
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	17	11	28
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	3	4	7
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	35	49	84
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	1	3	4
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	5	7	12
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	5	4	9
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	9	7	16
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	10	13	23
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
All causes						130	142	272

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Part 1 of the Act.

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes or provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	33	38	6	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	90	37	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises).	—	—	—	—
Totals	123	75	9	—

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :

	Number of cases in which defects were found		Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	2	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences Agst. the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	2	1	—	—	—
Totals :	13	5	—	—	—

PORT OF SILLOTH.

I am indebted to Mr. John A. O'Conner, H.M. Customs and Excise Officer, for the following particulars :—

STATEMENT OF TRADE FOR THE YEAR 1950.

	No. of ships :	Remarks :
From Republic of Ireland in ballast.	18	Loading coal for exportation.
From Republic of Ireland with cargo. (This service has now ceased).	36	General cargo inwards and outwards to and from Dublin via the Isle of Man.
From British Ports in ballast.	48	To load coal for various British R. of I. Ports.
From British Ports with cargo.	104	2 cement 8 Government stores 94 grain.
From Foreign Ports with cargo.	3	Timber @ Skoghull Slates @ St. Malo Pyrites @ Huelva.
TOTAL	209	

The trade of Silloth tends to decrease. Has it not been for the R. of I. cargo trade, 1950 would have shown a decrease of 35 on 1949.

(Sgd.) JOHN A. O'CONNOR,
Customs and Excise.

REPORT
on the
Work Carried Out
by the
Sanitary Inspectors
During the Year

To Dr. I. S. Jones,
Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

In presenting my Report for the year 1950 I should like to stress the following points :—

HOUSING : It is becoming increasingly difficult to ensure compliance with repair notices under the Public Health and Housing Acts owing to excessive costs. In the case of old property, which of course is the type with which we are mostly concerned in this connection, even small repair bills are liable to swallow up months of rent, and reluctance to comply with notices is understandable.

A legally permissible increase in rents is surely overdue if the poorer type of old property is not to fall prematurely into a state of disrepair which might merit the title of "slum."

In practice I find that rents are in fact being increased by many of the less scrupulous landlords, who are taking advantage of the overall housing shortage, unfortunately often in collusion with prospective tenants who thus make a rod for their own backs.

As usual it is the honest landlord who suffers the greater hardship, as he both maintains his property in a reasonable state and the rent at its proper level.

Housing improvement grants under the Housing Act of 1949 have not been much sought after. Only one scheme was commenced during the year under review, for a Mr. J. Haughin of Watch Hill, and the grant in respect of the improvement has since been paid.

I am surprised that more property owners do not avail themselves of the advantages offered.

SEWERAGE : Once again I must draw attention to the inadequacy of the sewage ejector station serving West Silloth district. The progressive development of the housing estate in that area is adding to the difficulties and recently my attention was drawn to the unpleasant fact that in the event of a breakdown in the pumping plant, a not infrequent occurrence in these days owing to the inefficiency of the plant due to gross and persistent overwork, sewage backs up the estate sewers and house drains.

The only safety valve available is an overflow from the sewage receiving well into the nearby stream, and I need hardly attempt to describe the affects of such a practice if carried on in warm weather. In fact, serious complaints have already been made concerning the foul state of this watercourse.

The mobile sewerage maintenance squad has done well since its formation, and I am satisfied it is the best means of looking after the sewerage schemes in a large rural district such as this. It is pleasing to note that other local authorities are coming round to this way of thinking and the idea is catching on.

Numerous other duties have already fallen to the lot of the squad however, with the result that their true function has been impaired, and in consequence some of the works are not yet to my liking.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION : Fifty-six closets of the conservancy type were converted to the water carriage system during the year. Twenty-three of these were connected to the Council's sewers and thirty-three to septic tanks.

TABLE ONE.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH STATISTICAL TABLE.

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	162
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	517
(2) (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..	—
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	—
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	3
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	95

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ..	43
--	---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(1)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(a)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..	2
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(i) By owners ..	2
	(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	—
(2)	Proceedings under Public Health Act :	
(a)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..	1
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(i) By owners ..	—
	(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	—
(3)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(a)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	1
(b)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..	—
(c)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which undertakings were accepted by the Council ..	—
(4)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(a)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..	1
(b)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	—

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding :—

(1) (a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	45
(b)	Number of families dwelling therein	56
(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein	317
(2)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	8
(3) (a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	16
(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	92

TABLE TWO.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Housing Act Inspections	156
Public Health Act Inspections	537
At houses	361
At other premises	104
In connection with the provision of dustbins	72
Food & Drugs Act, 1938, Inspections	712
Food Preparation Rooms	14
Bakehouses	41
Ice Cream Premises	100
Public Abattoir	307
Milk & Dairies	79
Unsound food in shops	38
Food shops	80
Markets	90
Knackers Yards	2
Council Property	399
Sewerage Schemes	247
Sewers and Drains examined and/or tested	344
Factories	91
Building Byelaws	536
Town & Country Planning Act Inspections	169
New housing sites	147
Refuse tips	75
Schools	41
Public Conveniences	41
Work in progress	231
Inspection of New houses in course of erection	218
Housing applications investigated	736
Building licences investigated	24
Infectious Disease Inquiries	35
Disinfection of premises	21
Disinfestation of premises	4
Rodent Control	23
Petroleum Acts	14
Camping Sites	42
Public Baths	4

TABLE THREE.

WORK CARRIED OUT AND IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

Conversions to water carriage system	56
By way of septic tanks	33
Connections to Council's sewers	23
Minor Structural alterations and improvements to Council houses	360
Major structural alterations and improvements to Private property	50
Additional houses constructed	127
Entirely new construction—private enterprise ..	16
Entirely new construction—local authority	119
Conversions from other buildings—private enterprise	1
Major structural repairs and improvements to other premises	61
To business premises	12
To factory premises	11
To public buildings	11
To farm premises	27
Baths provided	24
Washbasins and sinks provided	63
Water closets provided	76
New ranges and grates provided	51
Hot water laid on	40
Ashbins provided	21
Electricity installations	14
New drains laid	69
New byres built	13
New dairies built	10
Existing byres and dairies renovated	8
Barns, etc., erected	3
New garages built	15

TABLE FOUR.

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED :

		Served	Complied with
Statutory :			
Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	..	1	—
Housing Act, 1936, Section 9	.. ..	2	2
Informal :			
Public Health Act, 1936	.. ..	130	91
Housing Act, 1936	.. ..	38	6
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	.. ..	2	1
Factories Act, 1937	.. ..	7	3

TABLE FIVE.

SYNOPSIS OF WORK CARRIED OUT AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	495	365	226	3488	103
Number inspected	495	365	226	3488	103
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcases condemned	8	20	37	138	1
Percentage	1.6	5.5	16.4	4.0	.9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	275	162	4	167	17
Percentage	55.5	44.3	1.7	4.8	16.5
Tuberculosis only					
Whole Carcases condemned	11	12	1	—	—
Percentage	2.2	3.3	0.4	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	37	107	—	—	4
Percentage	7.5	29.3	—	—	3.9

TABLE SIX.

SHOWING THE PRINCIPLE GROUNDS OF CONDEMNATION
AT THE ABATTOIR.

Cause.	Bovine lbs.	Calves lbs.	Sheep lbs.	Pigs lbs.
Actinomycosis	18	—	—	—
Abscesses	—	6	30	—
Angiomata	1052	—	—	—
Arthritis	92	8	126	—
Bruising	1269	101	255	32
Cirrhosis	6541	—	—	—
Cysticercus Bovis	60	—	—	—
Decomposition	—	—	19	—
Difficult Parturition	763	—	121	—
Emaciation	1508	—	2087	—
Fevered Condition	1495	50	314	2
Imperfect Bleeding	—	—	186	—
Liver Abscesses	—	13	—	—
Malnutrition	—	1132	—	—
Medicine Taint	536	—	—	—
Moribund	—	84	975	—
Oedema	1864	—	865	—
Parasitic	22	—	214	1
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	—	—	619	5
Putrefaction	1313	6	195	35
Pyaemia	1198	55	50	—
Septicaemia	692	206	382	—
Septic Mastitis	841	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	14380	62	—	53
Extensive Injury	417	—	264	13
Urticaria	—	—	—	144
Jaundice	349	—	—	—
Nephritis	18	—	—	—
Multiple Abscesses	12	—	—	—
Mastitis	20	—	—	—
Gangrene	568	—	—	—
Vegetative Endocarditis	—	—	—	10
Erysipelas	—	—	—	180
Injury	—	—	—	115
Pronounced Anaemia	—	—	32	—
Totals	35028	1723	6734	590

TABLE SEVEN.

PARTICULARS OF FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR
HUMAN CONSUMPTION AT PLACES OTHER THAN THE PUBLIC
ABATTOIR.

Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	lbs.
Ham	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	„
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	32	„
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	..	101	„
Canned Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	309 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
„ Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	911 $\frac{1}{2}$	pints
„ Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	..	76 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
„ Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	„
„ Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	112 $\frac{1}{4}$	„
„ Soup	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	„
Treacle	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	„
Syrup	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	„
Marmalade	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	„
Wet Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	63	„
Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	„
Pickled Onions	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	„
Vinegar	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	bottle
Salad Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	lbs.
Coffee	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	„
Baby Food	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	„
Orange Juice	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	„

TABLE EIGHT.

PARTICULARS OF PLANS FORMALLY SUBMITTED.

Approved :	New dwellinghouses	14
	Additions and alterations to dwellinghouses	31
	Buildings converted into dwellinghouses	2
	Layouts relating to new dwellinghouses	27
	Resiting of dwellinghouses	1
	Reconstruction of dwellinghouses	2
	Conversions of back-to-back dwellinghouses into “ through ” houses	3
	Garages and outbuildings	28
	Temporary holiday bungalows	17
	Renewals of temporary holiday bungalows	11
	Siting of village hall	1
	Village halls	3
	Alterations and additions to schools	5
	Sunday School	1
	Alterations and additions to churches	1
	Extension to churchyard	1
	Alterations and additions to shops	5
	New cowsheds and dairy buildings	33
	Slaughterhouses	1
	Use of dwellinghouses as cafe and place of worship	1
	Use of shop as office	1
	Conversion of one house into two	2
	Overhead Electricity Supply Lines	14
	Additions and alterations to public buildings	3
	Petrol tanks and pumps	2
	Winning and working of Barytes	1
	Sand quarry	1
	Intake works	1
	Formation of access to highway	1
Rejected :	New dwellinghouse	1
	Garage	1
	Temporary holiday bungalows	2
	Petrol tanks and pumps	2

TABLE NINE.

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING WEIGHT OF WASTE
PAPER SALVAGED.

Year	Waste Paper	
	Tons.	Cwts.
1941	74	11
1942	158	10
1943	131	12
1944	131	17
1945	80	3
1946	104	6
1947	77	7
1948	105	3
1949	117	13
1950	91	10
Total :	1072	12

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ROBT. C. BLACKBURN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Sanitary Surveyor.

